Applicant : John Christian Hermansen et al.
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REMARKS

Claims 1-17 were pending. Claims 18-31 were canceled earlier. Applicant has now cancelled claims 1-17, and added claims 32-77.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Oshika in view of Hermansen. Applicant offers the following comments.

Oshika describes using a Hidden Markov Model to classify an input name according to language, followed by applying rules for generating variants of the input name. Hermansen catalogs and analyzes various techniques in the art, describes a variety of shortcomings of the art, and highlights areas for further study. However, neither Oshika nor Hermansen disclose or suggest at least "determining multiple phonetic representations for a portion of the input name, each of the multiple phonetic representations being for a different pronunciation of the input name; [and] comparing each of the multiple phonetic representations of the portion of the input name to a phonetic representation of a portion of the known name," as noted in claim 1.

Please charge deposit account no. 06-1050 for the excess claims fee of $270.00 and the Petition for Extension of Time fee of $110.00. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _APRIL 12, 2004_

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